TO THE

MINISTERS AND ELDERS

Met at *Edinburgh*, *April* 26, 1710.

The Juſt COMPLAINT and Remonſtrance Of the NATIONAL COVENANT of *SCOTLAND*, And the SOLEMN LEAGUE and COVENANT of the Three Kingdoms of *SCOTLAND*, *ENGLAND*, *and IRELAND*.

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT whereas your Petitioners forlorn
By Church and State, held in Contempt and Scorn,
By Perſons of all Ranks and Qualities,
Expoſed to Affronts, Indignities,
And all the Unjuſt Rage of Enemies
Unto the Covenanted Reformation,
Which once obtain'd within this Church and Nation;
Caſt off by all that's in Authority,
And Violate by th' groſſeſt Perfidy;
Under the Aſhes of Affronts do ly,
Deſert by moſt unjuſt Apoſtacy;
Deſerve ſome other Treatment at the hands
Of all, and each in theſe Reformed Lands;
And ſpecially at yours, whoſe Place and Station,
Whoſe Honour, Intereſt, and that high Relation,
Wherein you ſtand unto the KING of Kings,
Who in Sublime o're Earth's Clay-Monarchs reigns;
Doth challenge your Obſervance of His Laws,
With Life and Fortune to defend His Cauſe;
His Honour and His Intereſt to advance,
To propagate with Care and Vigilance,

And Pow'r wherewith the Church is veſted by

His Kingdom, to oppoſe all Enemies,
Who would invade His Church's Liberties.
From You (We ſay) We juſtly might expect
Some ampler Demonſtrations of Reſpect,
And Signs of Love, than yet You kythed have,
Who ſuffer Us to ly ſtill in that Grave,
Which Tyrants, now convict of Perjury,
Did in the higheſt pitch of Cruelty,
Dig up, Our burned Aſhes to enſhrine;
Thereby to ſatiate that Fury keen
Bred in their Breaſts, by the Infernal Flames
Of Spight and Malice, 'gainſt the very Names
Of Reformation, and a Covenant,
Or what e're elſe might interrupt the Rant
Of that Chimeric Sinfull Liberty,
Which now hath drown'd their Souls in Miſery,
We might have thought, that through all this long Tract
Of Peace and Eaſe, you ſometime would ranſact
Theſe deep Meanders and confuſed Cells,
Theſe Labyrinths, which Truths pure light expels,
Or rather ne're admit's; You know we mean,
Theſe darkſom Caves where we have bury'd been,
Of Tollerations and Indulgencies,
Granted by Chriſts declared Enemies;
But oh, alace! baſely accepted by,
Some of yourſelves to whom We now apply,
(Perhaps in vain.) We ſay, we might have thought,
That you at leaſt our Reliques would have ſought;
We can aſſure you, 'tis no ſuperſtition
To ſeek 'em out with carefull Inquiſition;
Nay, on the contrare 'tis your bounden duty,
Theſe Reliques to reſtore to th' ancient beauty,
Glory and Splendor wherewith once they ſhin'd,
While Chriſts true Citizens in one combin'd,
To propagate under their Captains Banner
His Truths and Cauſe in moſt couragious manner,
Did with a juſt magnificence diſplay,
Their Zeal, for that Intrinſic liberty,

propagate with Care and Vigilance,

And Pow'r wherewith the Church is vested by
Her Husband CHRIST, without dependency
On any State, or Worldly Monarchy.
We might have look'd, that when you did begin
The Church's Breaches to repair again,
We should have been employed to Cement
That Fabrick, which Defections sore had rent;
Instead of which 'twas basely plaist'red over
With fair pretexts, not to remove but cover
All the Defection, Blood-shed, Perjury
Enacted by Enormous Tyranny.
Yea such was your respect, rather disdain,
To Us, who had the Nations Glory been;
Least Your new Structure should participate
Of any thing which might to Us relate,
You chused rather to reject as Dust,
And to consign to everlasting Rust,
These worthy Acts, which did corroborate,
And Us to Our just greatness elevate;
Than to controll the Arrogating Pow'rs,
Which o're Christ's Church seek to erect the Tow'rs
Of an unlimited Supremacy
Eversive of the Churches Liberty;
And that You might their Humours gratifie,
Thereby t' obtain Peace and Prosperitie,
A temporary, Earthly, fading thing,
Which seldom doth true satisfaction bring
Unto the Soul as its Concomitant,
Being that it is the Glory of a Saint
To bear his Cross and imitate his Master,
Who when on Earth was subject to Disaster,
To sufferings great, and manifold Afflictions,
And to the worst of sinners Contradictions:
But You contrarie ways, to purchase ease,
And Worldly wealth, or out of Cowardice,
A Pusillanimous unmanly Passion
Conversant more with Fear than solid Reason,
Have contrare to the Duty which doth ly

rom Yocks and Burdens which had overcharged

Their Zeal, for that Intrinsic liberty,

Upon these Lands, by vertue of that tye
Which we contain, meanly receeded from
The Churches choisest Triumphs over *Rome*;
And practically granted them to be
What once they were declar'd by Tyranny
Acts of Rebellion 'gainst Authority.
And ever since Your late Establishment,
You have declared that you are content
With any Model of Church Government,
Respondent to the Peoples Inclinations,
Within these three once Covenanted Nations;
Instead of that blest Uniformity
In Sound Religion, with the Purity
Of all its parts, intended and begun,
And sworn unto, tho' now alace o're-run
With Clouds of Error, Mists and Superstition,
Erastian Usurpation and Division.
It is no Paradox to see it so,
When there's a patent Door to every Foe;
Since We *Religions* [illegible]*dwarks* are broke down,
And ne're repair'd, what wonder tho' the Crown
Fall from your heads? It can't be otherways,
Can you expect Heavens sweet comforting Rayes
Till you repent and do reform your ways?
O! do you think, th' Eternal hath forgot
The wrongs His Truth sustains? Observes He not
The Manners and Deportment of these Lands?
Who solemnly with elevated hands
Did vow Allegance and Fidelity,
Both for themselves and for posterity,
To Christ his Kingdom, Scepter, Government;
And amply testified their Souls Consent
By entring in a solemn COVENANT;
A COVENANT which was the blest effect
Of free and boundless Love, immense respect,
Which GOD vouchsaf'd upon these sinking Nations,
Whereby his People of all Ranks and Stations
Were animated, strengthened, and enlarged

rom Yocks and Burdens which had overcharged
heir Souls, their Conſcience had much perturbed,
nd their due Chriſtian Liberty had curbed.
A COVENANT which for its riſe and ſpring,
Manner and Ends, yea every other thing
elating to it, plainly doth diſcover,
hat GOD therein hath been the ſupream Mover
is Kingdoms progreſs the ſupream Deſign;
he Manner what His perfect Laws define;
he Matter ſuch as every gracious Soul,
f well inform'd, muſt love, but can't controul;
Binding to nothing but what formerly,
And antecedent unto ſuch a tye,
Was lying as a duty on theſe Nations,
Chiefly the Godly of all Ranks and Stations.
But leſt you ſhould Us tax of arrogance,
While modeſtly We labour to advance
That juſt Eſteem, and Honour which is due
To Us from all theſe Nations and from you
In ſpecial, if you ſerve that Character
Which Chriſt upon His Servants doth confer,
Therefore We ſhall forbear Now to declare
What our Enduements and Perfections are.
Nor liſt We amply to enumerate
What wrongs we bear, leſt 't might exaſperate
mpatient humours, which can ſcarcely bear
Our Names, much leſs Our juſt Complaints to hear;
And tho' We be contemned, flouted at,
Deſpis'd, derided and dilacerate;
Tho' ſuch as ſeal'd Us with their precious Blood,
Have been by You ſo far miſunderſtood,
As to be tearm'd Blind-Zealots, Men intent,
The Kingdom to diſturb, the Church to rent;
Tho' in our room Oaths are impoſ'd and taken,
Contrare to Us, and We our ſelves forſaken;
Yea, tho' We have ſufficient Evidence
Of diſreſpect to Our juſt Eminence,
n every Event which doth now commence;
Yet here (We ſay) it is not Our Intentions

To draw theſe injuries in large Dimenſions,
Nor to aggredge the hainous Circumſtances,
Which them to ſuch a pitch of guilt advances:
But You may Juſtly fear, ſome other Pencil
Will do't in lines of Blood, We mean the Benſil
And ſtorm of long-deſerved Indignation,
Juſtly impendent on this ſinfull Nation.
But what We here intend, is to remind
You of the Duty, unto which We bind,
Theſe Kingdoms, namely that you ſhould ſuppreſs,
Whatever is contrare to Godlineſs,
To ſound Religion in its purity,
And pow'r, ſuch as that curſed Hierarchy,
Satanical no doubt in its invention,
Th' infamous Means of Antichriſts aſcenſion,
Erect' by Law, confirmed by Decrees,
And Oaths impoſ'd on Men of all degrees.
As likewiſe every Het'rodox Opinion,
And Hereſy, ſupporting the Dominion
Of the Infernall King, now ſo much ſpreading;
Mens wretched Souls to endleſs darkneſs leading;
Tho' by the Influence and Kindly Rayes,
Which † *Moon and Star* upon their roots diſplayes,
Theſe Errours quickly pullulate and ſpring,
And do their curſed fruits to ripeneſs bring.

WE know 'tis vain for Us to ſupplicate
You to revive Us, or redintegrate
That Reformation which We bind you to,
For that's beyond your Reach and Pow'r to do,
Till once you break the Bonds, throw of the yocks
Wreath'd on your Necks, remove the ſtumbling-blocks
Laid in the way of any Enterpriſe,
By which Chriſt's bury'd Int'reſt may ariſe,
Mount up and Flowriſh: yet, pray, do not think,
That Impotency under which you ſink,
Can leſſen or excuſe your ſinfull Courſes,
Which do produce theſe Lets, and are the Sources,

From

From which do ſpring theſe grand impediments,
Which hinder Reformation, and foments
The Quite Reverſe, even every curſed Weed,
And Poiſon'd Root, which in theſe Lands do ſpread.
Only We crave, You'd ſeriouſly advert
Unto theſe Means which may juſt Wrath avert;
That you'd Repent, and would no more refuſe
To turn to GOD, perſiſt not to abuſe
His long-protracted Love and Patience,
Which knows no Rival of its Eminence
Yet when abus'd will ſometime yield a place
To Juſtice 'gainſt a ſtiff Rebellious Race.
Conſider that your triffling *Quidities*,
Whereby you cover your Iniquities,
All theſe Diſtinctions whereby you'd evade
Juſt Challenges, and whereby you'd perſwade
The ſimple to complaiſance with your ways,
Can never hide them from OMNISCIENT Eyes.
And tho' by ſtrength of rack'd Imaginations,
You may invent Diſtinctions and Evaſions,
Shifts, and Pretexts your ſins to palliate,
And your Declinſions to extenuate,
Yet when the Righteous LORD ſhall riſe to plead,
And 'gainſt theſe Courſes ſhall His Witneſs lead,
Perhaps you'l find, they'l prove but bruiſed Reeds,
Uſeleſs, yea, hurtfull in your greateſt Needs.
O! how will you that weighty charge elude
Of Gov'nant-breaking; yea, the guilt of Blood,
Even Blood of Souls; who do not Faithfully,
As *Watchmen ſet on Zions Walls*, deſcry
The hainous ſins and Heav'n-incenſing Crimes,
Which are the Monſtrous product of theſe times?
How can you ſay that you Repentance preach,
While you the Lands Defections do not reach?
While as you don't impartially declare
The ſins of Great and Small, while you do ſpare
In in your ſelves or others, ne're expect
Such tender Indications of reſpect,

As Christ hath pleased sometimes to confer
Upon His Ministers, who did prefer
His Kingdoms succes to their Worldly Grandeur
Who were content and willing to surrender
Their ALL to Christ, if so they might promove
His Churches Interest, and unite in Love
His Subjects in the way of Truth and Duty,
Which is the Quintessence of Zions beauty,
Which now she greatly wants, and can't regain,
While *Asher-like* you love still to remain
In these wide Breaches which her Foes have made,
Who did and do her Properties invade,
But to conclude, if you refuse to hear
These words of soberness, and stoppe your ear
Against the Truth, We'll reinforce our Charge
We'll change our Arguments and them enlarge,
And will oblide our briskest foes to yield,
Yea, with disgrace at length to quite the field;
Because HE's Mighty who has promised
Our Qarrel to a venge, our Cause to plead.
HIS faithfulnesse and HIS veracity
Will not allow, HE should indemnify
These Obstinat and unrepenting Lands,
Who do despise HIS Oath, and break HIS bands.
Who dream of ease, peace and prosperity,
While yet involv'd in profound perjury.
This is the Summe of what was Our intent
In this *Assembly* to have represent;
But doubting of a kind and friendly hearing,
Our useuall intertainment justly fearing,
We here await what honour your Discretion
Will put upon two Patriots of your Nation.

In prolem dilata ruunt perjuria patris
Et pœnam merito filius ore legit
Et quas fallacis collegit lingua parentis
Has eadem nati lingua refundit opes.
Claudianus ex Hesiodo.

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